

REMARKS

In the Office Action of April 17, 2008, the Examiner objected to the abstract due to the use of the word "comprises" in the abstract. The Examiner also rejected claims 22-54 under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Shamane.

By the present amendment, the Abstract has been amended to address this objection of the Examiner.

All of the claims were asserted to be anticipated by Shamane, however, applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion and requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection on this ground based on the following arguments and remarks.

Shamane is directed to a device for drying air in an air supply system in a motor vehicle air brake system. The device disclosed by Shamane is comprised of two detachable components, a desiccant cartridge 12 and a body assembly 14. These two components are held together with a retention bolt that extends through a boss 75 in the body assembly and into a load plate 34 of the cartridge that has internal threads 45. "Interlocking engagement between the desiccant cartridge and body assembly prevents these two components from rotating relative from one another during the process of mounting and dismounting the desiccant cartridge." (Col. 2, lines 32-36). The desiccant component 24, as well as the porous filter 56 are assembled into the desiccant cartridge in a non-removable fashion, such that when the desiccant or filter need to be replaced, the entire desiccant cartridge is replaced, not just the desiccant or filter material.

On the other hand, the present claims define a structure that differs from Shamane in several different aspects.

First, Independent claim 22 defines a device for separating impurities from the lubricating oil of an internal combustion engine. Such a device is contemplated by Shamane which is directed to a device for removing moisture from air in an air brake system. This difference is

noted in exactly the portion of the Shamane specification identified by the Examiner as supporting the assertion that Shamane discloses a device for separating impurities from the lubricating oil of an internal combustion engine, namely, col. 2, lines 65-67, among other places. For this reason, Shamane cannot be used to anticipate claim 22, or any of its dependent claims.

Second, independent claim 22 defines the device as comprising "a two piece housing comprising a stationary lower housing part and a removable upper screw cap." The desiccant cartridge 12 does not constitute a screw cap in that it remains stationary while a bolt is screwed into it, it does not screw onto another component, such as the body assembly 14. The Examiner identifies the outer shell 16 as comprising the screw cap, however, the outer shell is fixed to the remainder of the desiccant cartridge by means of a rolled perimeter band 36 (col. 3, line 20). As noted above, the entire desiccant cartridge is held stationary on the body assembly while the bolt 86 is engaged into the desiccant cartridge. For this additional reason, Shamane cannot be used to anticipate claim 22, or any of its dependent claims.

Third, independent claim 22 further defines the device wherein the screw cap and the filter element comprise detachable connection means which can be brought into contact and are used to transmit axial tractive forces. That is, there is a detachable connection means between the screw cap and the filter element. There is no such detachable connection means in Shamane between the filter element 56 and the housing 16. These components remain attached together. For this additional reason, Shamane cannot be used to anticipate claim 22, or any of its dependent claims.

Fourth, independent claim 22 further defines the device wherein the connection means, between the screw cap and the filter element, is arranged to be brought into contact by rotating the screw cap in its loosening rotational direction and arranged to be disengaged by rotating said screw cap in a tightening rotational direction. In Shamane, the housing does not have a loosening rotational direction or a tightening rotational direction since it remains stationary with the body

assembly 14 while the bolt 84 is rotated. Further, in Shamine there is no connection means between the housing 16 and the filter 54 which is brought into contact via rotation of the housing in one direction and is disengaged by rotating the housing in the other direction. For this additional reason, Shamine cannot be used to anticipate claim 22, or any of its dependent claims.

Thus, for each of these reasons separately and together, claim 22, and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Shamine.

The specific features of the dependent claims are also not shown or described by Shamine. For example, claim 24 clearly defines that the connection means comprises a concentric circle of snap-on hooks formed at an upper end disk of the filter element, and the connection means on the screw cap are formed by a ring with cam segments that is concentrically arranged at a bottom side of an upper part of the screw cap. This defined structural arrangement is not shown or described anywhere in Shamine. Shamine does not disclose any connection means between the filter element and the housing, let alone the specific snap-on hooks and the ring with cam segments defined in claim 24. The Examiner makes a vague reference to an unnumbered element in the drawings of Shamine of snap-on hooks and then points to nearly an entire column of the specification that does not describe snap-on hooks at all. Applicant requests the Examiner to more clearly define the structure relied on in Shamine, at least by referencing where on the drawings the Examiner detects snap-on hooks and a ring, if this rejection is maintained.

The elements of the remaining dependent claims are not even mentioned by the Examiner, even though it is the Examiner's obligation to locate every element defined in the claims in the prior art reference to support an anticipation rejection.

Independent claim 28 defines the structure as defined in independent claim 22, as discussed above, and for the same reasons stated with respect to claim 22, taken singly and in combination, applicant submits that independent claim 28, and each of its dependent claims is not

anticipated by Shamine.

Further, independent claim 28 defines a centrifuge with a rotor drivable by means of lubricating oil flowing through it. No such centrifuge is disclosed in Shamine, nor does the Examiner even suggest that such a structure is disclosed in Shamine. For this additional reason, Shamine cannot be used to anticipate claim 28, or any of its dependent claims.

Further, independent claim 28 defines a removable intermediate cap arranged in the housing between the filter element and the centrifuge. No such removable intermediate cap is disclosed in Shamine, nor does the Examiner even suggest that such a structure is disclosed in Shamine. For this additional reason, Shamine cannot be used to anticipate claim 22, or any of its dependent claims.

Further, independent claim 28 defines that the intermediate cap and the filter element comprise first detachable connection means and the screw cap and the intermediate cap additionally comprise second detachable connection means. No such first and second detachable connection means in the locations defined is disclosed in Shamine, nor does the Examiner even suggest that such a structure is disclosed in Shamine. For this additional reason, Shamine cannot be used to anticipate claim 28, or any of its dependent claims.

Further, independent claim 28 defines that the connection means on the filter element are formed by a circle of locking hooks with locking noses. No such locking hooks with locking noses on the filter element is disclosed in Shamine, nor does the Examiner even suggest that such a structure is disclosed in Shamine. For this additional reason, Shamine cannot be used to anticipate claim 28, or any of its dependent claims.

For each of these additional reasons, taken singly or in combination, including in combination with the reasons set forth above, applicant submits that claim 28 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Shamine.

Again the features further defined in the claims that depend from claim 28 are not shown

or described in Shamine, nor does the Examiner indicate that such structures are shown or described. For this additional reason, each of the dependent claims are not anticipated by Shamine.

Independent claim 39 defines much of the same structure as defined in independent claim 28 and for the reasons set forth above with respect to those structures, and incorporated here, applicant submits that independent claim 39 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Shamine.

Further, independent claim 39 defines that the connection between the first connection means between the screw cap and the filter is a rotary connection. In Shamine, there is no rotary connection between the filter 54 and the housing 16. For this additional reason, applicant submits that independent claim 39 and its dependent claims are not anticipated by Shamine.

Therefore, for each of the reasons described and incorporated, taken singly or in combination, applicant submits that Shamine does not anticipate claim 39 or any of its dependent claims.

Again the features further defined in the claims that depend from claim 39 are not shown or described in Shamine, nor does the Examiner indicate that such structures are shown or described. For this additional reason, each of the dependent claims are not anticipated by Shamine.

For each of the above reasons taken separately and also collectively, applicant submits that each of the claims of the application are patentably distinguishable over Schroder, and requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and indicate all claims as allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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